

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
KOSSORIS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Southeastern Wisconsin lost a truly dedicated teacher last week—Tom Kossoris, who taught at Mukwonago High School over the past three decades. He passed away after a lengthy battle with illness brought on by a brain tumor. I would like to take a moment to honor his memory and reflect on the lessons he passed along to his students and others who knew him.

Tom taught history, political science and economics. He demanded a lot from his students—setting high standards that challenged them to excel. In an account that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, his fellow teacher, Bruce Lammers put it well, saying: “Tom taught me to have students meet your expectations. Challenge the kids academically, and the kids rise to your standards.” Tom combined this toughness with a dry sense of humor and an unfailing commitment to his students’ education.

Every year, Tom brought students to Washington to enhance and expand on what they had learned—showing them their government in action, as well as the site of so many watersheds and debates over the course of our nation’s history. I could count on hearing from Tom, who would ask for assistance with getting tours of the Capitol or other opportunities to make his students’ trip memorable. He held himself to the same high standards he expected of others—working tirelessly to make sure students got the most out of their experience in Washington.

Over the years he retained a love of teaching, as well as an intellectual energy and enthusiasm that he passed on to others. On top of his other teaching duties, Tom became a driver’s education instructor, giving lessons before school on weekdays and on Saturdays. His sharp mind, his wit, and his determination to bring out the best in students will be greatly missed by the whole community.

HONORING CYNTHIA SIEGEL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for over 30 years of educational service to students in Virginia, New York, and Germany.

Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Siegel began her career in education in New York, teaching for six years on the high school level and two years for an education program at CitiBank. Mrs. Siegel’s calling as a teacher didn’t leave her because of a geographic location. As the spouse of an Army officer, she found herself in Germany and confronted with a base that lacked a teacher for the military school there. She gladly stepped up and filled that need. Upon her return to the U.S., Mrs. Siegel worked for six years at the Washington Business School of Northern Virginia. She

joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989, piloting the Technology Tools class for Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. Mrs. Siegel has been a dedicated educator at Lanier for the past 21 years.

Teaching students for over three decades and on two continents, she has demonstrated her unequivocal passion for education. Over her career, Mrs. Siegel found opportunities to actively serve in different educational systems in Virginia, New York and Europe. A proud mother and grandmother, Mrs. Siegel will continue her service to young people during her retirement. She has fondly exclaimed, “my role as an educator will remain, only my title will officially shift from Mrs. Siegel to grandma.”

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for her enduring service as a teacher in Fairfax County and abroad. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Cynthia Siegel for her efforts and wishing her many happy years in retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Honest Leadership Open Government Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI for taking this important step in changing the way business is done in Washington.

H.R. 2316 will bring real transparency to lobbyists’ activities in order to break the corrupting influence that has been present over the last decade in Congress. This bill requires disclosure of lobbyists’ contributions to members, doubles the frequency of lobbyists’ reporting, and establishes a searchable public database of this disclosure information. It also increases criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the Lobby Disclosure Act and bans the K street project.

The Honest Leadership Open Government Act includes new requirements for Members of Congress, including required disclosure of job negotiations for post-Congressional employment, and establishes a public database for Members’ travel and financial disclosure information.

This legislation is the second step in fulfilling the Democrats’ promise to clean up Washington. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress we passed new House Rules imposing the toughest ethics standards ever. These rules banned gifts, meals and trips paid for by lobbyists. The House has also voted to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption.

The House of Representatives is the People’s House. In order to ensure that we are truly responsive to and representative of the people, it is critical that lobbyists’ do not have undue access to Members or influence over

the legislative process. H.R. 2316 shines a bright light on lobbyists’ activities in order to end the illegal practices that waste taxpayer dollars and bring disgrace to this institution.

Under Democratic leadership, this Congress is moving America in a New Direction. Our priorities put the interests of American families ahead of special interests. I am proud to support this legislation today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 5th, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcalls Nos. 426–430.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following:

Rollcall No. 426, H. Res. 327—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 427, H. Res. 422—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 430—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 451—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 430, H. Res. 452—“aye.”

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
PATRICK HENRY BRADY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Patrick H. Brady for his relentless and selfless service to this country. Major General Brady should be remembered for his heroic display while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, where he went above and beyond his call of duty flying multiple missions into hostile territory to evacuate severely wounded soldiers as an air ambulance pilot. It is estimated that Major General Brady may have evacuated more wounded from the battlefield than anyone in American history, over 5,000.

Major General Brady’s gallantry and heroism has been well documented and he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation’s second highest award; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration. While Major General Patrick Brady had a distinguished and honorable military career, I speak today not only to honor those achievements and his 34-year military career, but to recognize his service to our country while not wearing the uniform.

Soon Major General Brady will step down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, after more than a decade of phenomenal service. Major General Brady’s outstanding ability enabled him to organize and motivate nearly 150 organizations whose sole focus is on passing a Constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. He has testified before Congress and worked